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**NEW POLL SHOWS ONLY ABOUT ONE-THIRD OF SENIORS CLAIM TO UNDERSTAND  
MEDICARE DRUG BENEFIT**

WASHINGTON – Today, U.S. Representative Pete Stark (D-CA, 13th) commented on a new Kaiser Family Foundation poll which found 37% of seniors now say they understand the new Medicare prescription drug benefit “very” or “somewhat” well.

While the new polling data shows an increase from April of this year, six in 10 seniors (60%) still say they don’t understand the benefit well or at all.

“It’s imperative that Medicare beneficiaries receive unbiased information that stems from a motivation to help patients,” Stark said. “Unfortunately, most beneficiaries will be inundated with materials from organizations that stand to gain financially or have a political agenda. The best advice I can give beneficiaries is to get as much information as possible from as many unbiased sources as possible and ask questions before you sign up for anything.”

The Kaiser Health Poll Report Survey was conducted and analyzed by researchers at the Kaiser Family Foundation. A nationally representative sample of 1,205 adults ages 18 and older, including 300 respondents 65 years of age and older, was interviewed by telephone by Princeton Survey Research Associates between August 4-8, 2005. The margin of sampling error is plus or minus three percentage points for the full sample and plus or minus six percentage points among seniors.

The tracking poll results are available online: <http://www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/med082505pkg.cfm>